

**MARION BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS**

February 19, 2008

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Roger F. Blanchette, Board members Andrew N. Jeffrey and Jonathan F. Henry and Town Administrator Paul F. Dawson. Also present were Lee Craver, Kenneth J. Souza of *The Wanderer*, Ruth Thompson of *The Sentinel*, Andrea Smith and Robert Slager of the *Tri-Town Observer*, Stephen M. Cushing, Eunice Manduca, Carol Sanz and Randy L. Parker. Also present were Frederick Fowler and Alden Cook of Region IV, Cape & Islands Emergency Medical Services, Andrew Old, Eugene DeLorenzo, Robert E. and Kevin R. Hart, Joseph and Lucy Napoli, EMTs Jeffrey Habicht, W. Dale Jones, Peter Hunsdorfer, Nicole DeBlois, Charles Brown, Everett Eaton, Andrea Keene and Helene Craver, secretary and others who may not have signed in.

Mr. Henry moved the minutes of January 22, 2008; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Jeffrey moved to appoint Michael H. Cormier to the Bird Island Lighthouse Restoration Committee; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Henry moved to appoint Michael H. Cormier Chairman pro tem of the Bird Island Lighthouse Restoration Committee; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Henry moved to appoint Nichole DeBlois EMT (end of probationary period); the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Blanchette requested the Board's attention to an Article which had been presented (and failed) at the 2007 Annual Town Meeting regarding the ability of voters to recall elected officials. Mr. Blanchette expressed his support for the Article and said that there are people who would like to see it presented again at the spring Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Blanchette reminded the Board that the deadline for Articles for the Annual Town Meeting is February 29 and that, if the Board does not support the recall Article, the Board should allow people time to petition the Town to place it on the Warrant. Mr. Henry said that, in his opinion, we don't need the recall process, as there already exists a process whereby a judge can step in and remove someone for malfeasance in office. Mr. Henry said that the recall process is very often used for political reasons and incurs the cost of a special election—if someone is incompetent, the ballot box is the recourse. Mr. Jeffrey agreed with Mr. Henry; it is unnecessary and was voted down last year.

Mr. Henry moved to deny the inclusion of the recall process at the spring Annual Town Meeting; the motion was seconded and carried, Mr. Blanchette not voting.

Mr. DeLorenzo said that he wanted to clarify the previous fate of the recall petition; he didn't believe it was actually voted on at last year's Town Meeting, as it was the decision by the Town Moderator not to bring it to a vote.

Mr. Henry moved to declare a list of equipment submitted by Robert C. Zora, Superintendent of Public Works, surplus property; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Henry moved one-day, special alcohol licenses for Silvershell Beach on August 7, the Music Hall on March 1 and the Marion Social Club on February 23 and March 9, 2008; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Henry moved to approve a request as outlined by Wendy Bidstrup to hold an "Arts in the Park" function at Bicentennial Park sponsored by the Marion Art Center on July 12 (rain date July 13); the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Board noted the resignation from the Open Space Acquisition Commission by Priscilla Bradley. It was agreed that letters of appreciation to both Priscilla and Charles Bradley should be sent by the Board. It was also noted that the Open Space Acquisition Commission is an elected position and that the position would need to be appointed until the expiration, if it is not this year.

Mr. Henry moved to accept the resignation of Priscilla Bradley from the Open Space Acquisition Commission and Community Preservation Committee; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson informed the Board on the progress of the Town's web page. Mr. Dawson notified the Board that a demonstration of the web site will be given at the March 18 meeting.

Mr. Blanchette read the following statement:

"We have been requested to review certain procedures related to the operations of the Marion Emergency Medical Services Department. Specifically, we were asked to examine whether or if the Town should consider the consolidation of EMS with the Marion Fire Department. In addition, we were asked to examine the possibility of instituting a third-party billing system. Lastly, we were asked to make recommendations for the Board's consideration.

"This charge, while straightforward on the face of it, has become complicated by recent reports and allegations in the press. These reports have served not only as a distraction from our directive, but also as a mean-spirited attack on a Town Department that has served our community well for many years. These reports are filled with innuendo, half-truths and absolute inaccuracies.

"We intend to address these issues, not with 'stone cold silence', but with information that is factually correct. However, as these reports have been a distraction, we will first address those matters that the Board has requested we examine.

"Merge EMS with Marion Fire Department—

"After careful consideration of this important matter, it is our conclusion that these two vital Town departments should not be consolidated at this time. Such a move, without strategic planning, would only serve to exacerbate a staffing problem that continues to be an issue for both of these departments.

"We acknowledge, as has been pointed out in the Marion 2015 Report, that the Town is currently facing a changing demographic. Socioeconomic trends related to income levels and the age of the population indicate that the Town will continue to struggle to attract and maintain qualified personnel in both departments.

"While each of these departments has had reasonable success in attracting well-qualified volunteers, we believe that merging the departments will actually hamper this success. Volunteers for one department do not necessarily have any interest in volunteering for the other. Departmental consolidation such as that contemplated here works best when undertaken in a full-time department or in a department that maintains some combination of full-time/part-time service.

"There is no doubt that, given the staffing needs of both departments, the Town of Marion must begin serious strategic planning in order to ensure the future viability of each of these operations. Ironically, it was just such a discussion that sparked this debate. We recommend that the Board of Selectmen delay any consolidation of the two departments until such a plan has been developed and reviewed.

"Institute Third-party Billing for EMS—

"We recommend that the Town of Marion institute forthwith a program for third-party billing for EMS services. In making this recommendation, we acknowledge that this will be a significant change to the residents of Marion.

"The law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires that each resident have health insurance. Accordingly, we believe that instituting a billing procedure will have very little impact on private-pay patients.

"We estimate that, based upon historical response data, the Marion EMS operations will generate approximately \$180,000 in annual revenue. This revenue source will provide the Town of Marion with the funds necessary to ensure the continued outstanding service of Marion EMS into the future.

"This, we believe, can be accomplished by engaging the services of a medical billing company with an expertise in ambulance billing. This process is most efficient in that it produces needed revenue without the need to hire additional staff. These companies, and there are many who do this type of work, are HIPPA-compliant and are sensitive to the individual needs of the patient.

"During the course of our review, we met considerable resistance to the concept of billing for EMS services. The most prevalent reason we encountered for this resistance was concern for those residents of modest means. It is feared that those who need the services the most will not seek it because of an inability to pay. We have reviewed this concern with other municipalities that have instituted billing policies. While all acknowledged that this issue was of particular concern to them, all were quick to point out that their fears were not realized. By adopting proper collection policies, we can ensure that no one is denied services due to financial considerations.

"This is a critically important point that deserves to be restated. The Town of Marion and the Marion EMS Department are committed to the basic premise that ALL PATIENTS WILL BE TREATED REGARDLESS OF AN INABILITY TO PAY.

"We believe that, like other communities, we can craft an inclusive policy that allows for third-party billing while protecting the needs of those who are uninsured, underinsured or who simply cannot afford to make payment. We, therefore, recommend that the Board of Selectmen authorize the Town Administrator to begin the process of seeking price proposals from qualified billing agencies. In addition, the Town Administrator should be instructed to draft collection policies for consideration of the Board of Selectmen.

"Media Response—

"Finally, we turn our attention to some of the assertions, allegations and false information that has been printed in the press. While we find it distasteful to publicly display our disagreements with the media, we likewise find that considerable clarification is required to set the record straight. The people of Marion have been provided with misinformation and we are compelled to set the record straight.

"From the outset, we want to make it clear that we have nothing but the greatest respect for the Marion EMS Department and all of its wonderfully talented professionals. They have provided high-quality service to the residents of Marion for many years. They deserve our praise and our respect for all of their efforts through the years.

"That they have had to endure this attack on their credibility, their integrity, their judgment and even their physical ability to perform their jobs is a sad testament to the power of the media. We regret that they had to endure these criticisms and we will now endeavor to put to rest, once and for all, the many inaccuracies that can be found there.

"The February 1, 2008 edition of the *Tri-Town Observer* contained a headline stating that the Marion EMS Department had violated its license more than 500 times. We want to assure the residents of Marion that the Marion EMS Department did not violate its license. IT SIMPLY DID NOT HAPPEN. Assertions to the contrary are wrong.

"The article makes several assertions that are simply inaccurate. These include the following:

- 'The terms of the Marion Ems license requires at least one certified paramedic to be part of any response team, regardless of the nature of the call.'
- 'According to Dawson, the EMS Department didn't keep logs of their activities.'
- 'Neither Dawson, who, along with David (???) Blanchette, has been charged by Selectmen with investigating Marion EMS, nor Jeff Habicht, Director of Marion EMS, were able to accurately define the requirements of Marion's EMS license.'

"It appears that the reporter (and likewise the editor) relied heavily upon the information it obtained from Fred Fowler, the Executive Director of Southeastern Massachusetts EMS Council. That information has proven to be inaccurate. Mr. Fowler, to his credit, has acknowledged that certain information he provided to the media was incorrect. He has admitted to his error and has issued a formal apology. We thank him for being forthright and we accept his apology. In his letter, Mr. Fowler has stated that 'all Department of Health Office of Emergency Medical Services requirements for staffing relate only to personnel required for the transport of a patient and not to the response of the vehicle to the site of the incident.'

"In addition, answers provided by the Town Administrator were misrepresented. At no time was the newspaper ever told that Marion EMS didn't keep logs of their activities. Rather, when asked for 'dispatch records' containing the names of each EMS responder, the Town Administrator informed Mr. Slager that the particular records he requested did not necessarily contain all of the information he was seeking. Instead, we put together a document containing all of the requested information.

"Lastly, when questioned about the Marion EMS license, the Town Administrator and the EMS Director were not unable to articulate the provisions of our license. Rather, we were stunned to learn that a Region V official was questioning the procedures we had long understood. We now know, of course, that we were correct in our understanding of the terms of our license.

"Any media outlet has an obligation to its constituency to report the news in a fair and impartial manner. In the present case, we recognize that, to a limited extent, the *Tri-Town Observer* was relying upon information it received that has proven to be incorrect. We think that the newspaper owed it to its readers to check and to double check its information. This is so even if it meant that the story would be delayed for another week. Had that occurred, the story told would certainly have been different.

"Robert Slager, in his commentary discussing Marion EMS (February 8, 2008), asserts that '...there is absolutely no oversight. The department is completely out of control.' Relying upon incomplete information, Mr. Slager has undertaken what can only be described as a crusade against the Marion EMS. It is our hope that, finally confronted with factual information, he will take a higher ground.

"We agree with his concluding sentence, 'It is a matter of life and death.' The men and women of the Marion EMS know this only too well. For many years, they have delivered quality, professional service to the residents of the Town of Marion. They will continue to do so.

"We are, and will remain, grateful to them for their willingness to served the community they love. They deserve our praise and have earned our respect."

Mr. Blanchette read the following Letter to the Editor of the *Tri-Town Observer* from Thomas Magauran:

"Dear Mr. Slager,

"It is with great sadness that I read your latest editorial calling for the disbanding of Marion's EMS service. This sadness was derived from my realization that you have failed to learn some life lessons that your parents would gladly remind you.

"'Life is short and it is all about people.' 'There, but for the grace of God, go I.' 'Let me not judge a man until I have walked a mile in his shoes. These are a few of the gentle reminders that many of our parents taught us early in our lives.

"As a local newspaper, seeking to contribute positively to the community, attract advertisers wishing to grow their own goodwill in the community, and to possibly even be paid by readers to have the privilege to read your articles and editorial genius, you should step back and reassess this crusade of yours regarding the Marion EMS. It appears more self-serving than any positive contribution.

"Once people believe that you have lost your objectivity, they stop believing anything that you have to say. It certainly appears that you are unconcerned that you are sullyng the personal reputations and smearing the goodwill of the many good people who have staffed our EMS service since it inception and the EMS service itself. Worse yet, you appear to be doing a victory lap!

"Others can speak to the good and valued history of the Marion EMS. Still others can speak to the longstanding feuds that may, unwittingly, be at the root of your efforts. But, I can tell you that our elected officials, whom we have chosen to represent us and address this and many other issues, are not asleep at the switch. You have said enough.

"Incidentally, the 'stone cold silence' that you have heard should tell you that many have come to believe that you are not worth a response. Losing the respect of your audience might be a problem for a local newspaper.

"Feel free to challenge me. You would not be the first. But, please lighten up on the many good people who have served their friends and neighbors so unselfishly for many, many years as part of the Marion EMS.

"To Marion EMS personnel and alumni, all municipal workers, local businesspeople, library supporters, school volunteers, coaches, and so many other contributors who have made Marion the town we choose to call home, thank you.

"To you, Mr. Slager, I sincerely hope that you never have anyone seek to tear you down as you have done here and that when you are down, as it happens to us all, that you have a community like Marion to stand behind you."

Mr. Henry said that he has gone on record previously in favor of the consolidation of the two departments, but there is a long time from here to there, staffing being one issue. Mr. Henry said that he agrees with the recommendation that it will be some time in the future yet to be determined. Mr. Jeffrey agreed that the consolidation is not something that needs to be done quickly. Mr. Jeffrey said that it was his concern that the Town would lose an opportunity and the possible consolidation should be studied, with a bench mark and time table.

Mr. Jeffrey moved that, at this time, we do not merge the EMS and Fire Department, and this should be studied further with a time table to be set within the next six months; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Henry said that he strongly concurs with the recommendation on the third-party billing and is surprised that the revenue projections have gone up from the studies in which he was previously involved. Mr. Henry said that he would like to suggest that they target July 1 for the time to begin the billing. Mr. Dawson said that this would be possible. Mr. Henry indicated that they were unsure what revenue ambulance billing would produce, but they should try it through the end of the 2009 fiscal year. Mr. Dawson said that there was a misconception that, if third-party billing is instituted, the appropriation for the EMS "goes away"—that isn't so; the expenses remain, but could be offset. Mr. Blanchette explained that the current expenses are \$90,000 per year. Mr. Dawson reported that the billing company will take a percentage of the billable amount for their service; the Town does not pay the company directly. Mr. Jeffrey said that his concern is that we will be anticipating a certain amount of revenue before we see actual costs. Mr. Jeffrey said that he wants people to be comfortable with the new system and that we should give people an opportunity to see how it will work before it takes effect. Mr. Dawson said that he is putting together a policy for the Board's consideration and vote; money should never be a consideration as to whether someone calls 911—the Marion EMS will not change.

Mr. Jeffrey moved to request the Town Administrator put together policies and procedures on third-party billing; the motion was seconded.

Mr. Jeffrey said that it was very important to note that this decision is being made by the Selectmen, and is not being made lightly.

Mrs. Manduca asked if there would be an increase in remuneration to the EMS volunteers when this policy is instituted. Mr. Blanchette said that it was quite possible; we will know more after the first year of the change.

Mrs. Manduca noted that, awhile back, Mr. Henry developed a committee to look into this, a study was done and a report was submitted, which was not included in the Town Report. Mr. Henry said that he made a decision not to have the report included because he did not support the report's conclusions; the committee reached the

wrong conclusion. Mr. Blanchette said that this is not germane to the present discussion; the report is history. More discussion followed regarding the veracity of the report.

Dr. Kemp reported that the Finance Committee and EMS had had several meetings and the EMS had agreed to charge for the ambulance service. Dr. Kemp said that he personally is very suspicious as to whether there will be a profit; one of the facts that is apparent is that the Town needs more paramedics and basic training costs \$8,000 per individual. Dr. Kemp said that technology and expectations are changing, and the quality of the service will have to be improved. Dr. Kemp said that the people who have gotten the bargain are the insurance companies, which have not been charged for the service. Mr. Brown stated his concern that people will have a high deductible for their insurance or that some amount will be disapproved; the EMTs want to know that people will not be "hounded" for payment. Mr. Blanchette said that it was his understanding that this will be taken into account. Mr. Dawson said that the billing company will work with the Town; the Board will give them direction; policies will be written to try to take care of these things. Mr. Blanchette said that he had been assured that everyone is going to be okay.

Mr. Jones said that he understands where the Finance Committee is looking at the income, but they have been able to generate funds for a long time without billing, because people donated to the service. Mr. Jones said that he was concerned that there will be pressure to inaugurate a full-time department; he has seen this happen in other places. Mr. Jones was concerned that all donations will cease and it will not work out well in the long run. Mr. Jeffrey said that he believes that the Town will continue to contribute to the EMS. Mr. Jones said that he hopes Mr. Jeffrey is right, because there is too much invested in the present system—thousands and thousands have been donated to the ambulance and they have been able to buy equipment for which the Town doesn't have to pay, along with paying for training and it is very cost effective.

A brief discussion followed regarding the differences in types of licenses for the ambulance. Mr. Dawson said that the new billing system won't affect the EMS at all, and that they won't be involved with it and won't be collecting bills.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Slager read the following statement:

"The cover-up appears to have begun in earnest. Tuesday night at the Marion Selectmen's meeting, the EMS department (aided and abetted by Selectman Roger Blanchette and Town Administrator Paul Dawson) is reportedly planning an ambush The *Tri-Town Observer* in a feeble attempt to destroy our creditability (*sic*). We have no intention of allowing that to happen.

"Our coverage of the Marion EMS controversy has irked many powerful people in Marion. We have called for the department to be disbanded after the EMS repeated (*sic*) violated its license. We want to see EMS merge with the Fire Department to provide better service for the people of Marion. That has put the EMS in full scramble mode in a desperate attempt to retain its autonomy.

"Now the department, with the help of its political pawns, plans to unveil a letter from Fred Fowler, the executive director of the Southeastern Massachusetts EMS Council, in which he claims he provided *The Observer* 'misinformation' that we used in one of our recent stories.

"The *Observer* has received a copy of this letter. And frankly, it makes no sense whatsoever. Fowler claims he was incorrect when he told the *Observer* (on three different occasions) that an EMS ambulance needs to be fully staffed when it responds to a call. Now he's insisting that isn't true, that EMS personnel can respond to the scene of the incident. Fowler isn't saying we misquoted him or misunderstood what he told us. He's saying he was simply wrong.

"Assuming for a moment that the executive director of the Southeastern Massachusetts EMS Council doesn't actually know the most basic rules and regulations governing the staffing of an EMS ambulance, his 'retraction' is absolutely absurd. According to state regulations, on paramedic-level calls an EMS ambulance must be staffed with two paramedic-level EMTs unless a waiver is granted, in which case only one EMT-level paramedic is required. Marion EMS has such a waiver, which states, in no uncertain terms, that 'Marion can provide EMT-Paramedic level care with ambulance staffed, at a minimum, with one EMT-Paramedic and one EMT-Basic from base location in Marion, Massachusetts.'

"Let's repeat that...'from base location in Marion'. Base location would be the base from which the ambulance is dispatched. That's why they call it a base.

"Also, on the Southeastern Massachusetts EMS Council web site, they have a chart under the heading 'Ambulance Dispatch Protocol' for EMS departments operating under a waiver. For a priority 1 patient, the chart reads: 'Dispatch ALS ambulance with two paramedic-level EMTs or one paramedic-level EMT and one basic EMT while summoning a second paramedic EMT to the scene.'

"No where does it say an EMS ambulance doesn't need a paramedic on board a priority 1 call. No where in the state regulations does it say that, either. It is, quite simply, a fallacy.

"We contacted Fowler on Monday to seek clarification of his 'retraction'. He told us such questions need to be addressed at the state level. In other words, 'No comment'. We weren't surprised. What other answer could he give?

"We then made several attempts to contact the state Department of Public Health, which oversees the office of Emergency Medical Services. There has been no response. That's no surprise, either. Ever since legislation was enacted in 2000 that requires EMS Departments to work jointly with other emergency service providers such as fire and police departments, there has been a major turf war going on. EMS and private ambulance services don't want anybody else's hand in their cookie jar. It could cost them money and the agencies that represent them haven't been too strenuous in adhering to the legislation.

"Here's a couple of questions for you: Why would Fowler, who twice confirmed with us that his initial statements were accurate prior to publication, now flip-flop his position when he appears to have been correct in the first place? And why now, nearly a month after he was quoted in our story?

"We'll let you decide (*sic*). Tuesday night Dawson and Blanchette are supposed to file a report regarding their investigation of the EMS Department. The *Observer* has reported that the EMS department repeatedly failed to provide paramedic assistance when it was required. In many cases, a single basic EMT responded to patients in coronary distress. Just one of those cases is cause for the revocation of an EMS license.

"This, ladies and gentlemen, is going to be one big smokescreen. The EMS department has never asked for a retraction of the story detailing its license violations. If they believed our reporting was inaccurate, why didn't they tell us immediately? It's because we weren't inaccurate. They were simply waiting for some means of trying to discredit us. And now they're hanging their hopes on a man who clearly appears to have been pressured to recant a minor piece of information, a piece of information that appears to have been accurate in the first place. We're not buying it for a second.

"Dawson will likely also try to attack the *Observer* during the meeting. He will say that the Marion EMS did in fact keep logs of their activities and that the reason we were charged \$163 was because we wanted information not generally included in EMS logs.

"That would be a lie. We asked specifically for the EMS logs. We were told they didn't keep logs, only daily incident reports. The reason it took 15 hours for them to compile the information for us was because logs had to be created from the reports. We also requested the times of every call, plus the time the incidents ended. That was not included in the reports we were given. We also specifically asked which EMS personnel responded to the call, not who road (*sic*) in the ambulance to the scene. Dawson may try to twist this. We warned our readers to be aware of it in advance.

"This is how we predict they will spin it. Dawson will say EMS personnel is allowed to respond directly to the scene of an incident. He will claim we only asked for data regarding who was actually in the ambulance that responded. Then someone will present a new version of the logs that show that a paramedic arrived independently in every case we questioned. It will all be a lie.

"Yes, it will be quite a show on Tuesday night, full of smoke and mirrors. We were told in the very beginning that if we pursued this story, we would pay a price for it. But we have every confidence that the people watching will see the charade for what it is—the last, desperate hope of a department completely out of control. But what will be truly sad is watching the strings on the political puppets, who will dance just as they are instructed to do. They will try to hide the truth while revealing to everybody how they lack the courage of their own personal convictions. They know the truth. Attempting to cover it up will not change that fact."

Mr. Dawson objected that Mr. Slager had slandered him, calling him a liar, but this has never been proven. Mr. Dawson said that Marion EMS did not and has not violated its license. Mr. Dawson said that, when Mr. Slager made his public records request, he requested the dispatch records, time of call and who responded—but, when he checked with the Director and Police Chief, he found that the dispatch records do not reflect that information, so he offered Mr. Slager to put together the dispatch records, even though he is not required to create records that do not exist. However, Mr. Dawson said, there were inaccurate articles in the newspaper and he and the Director made the effort to create the documentation they believed was wanted. Mr. Dawson reported that he did not ask Mr. Fowler to address the fact that he made an error—Mr. Fowler did this on his own. Mr. Dawson said that Mr. Slager was referring to a base location; a conversation he had had today with the Acushnet Fire Chief concerning the situation that happens in Marion resulted in the discovery that there is absolutely no requirement for the ambulance to leave the base with a paramedic, only for the transport of the patient to the hospital. Mr. Dawson said that it would be foolish for a paramedic or EMT to drive by the scene of the medical call to go to the base to go with the ambulance to the scene. Mr. Dawson again objected to being called a liar and praised the volunteers of the Emergency Medical Services for the outstanding work they do every day and expressed sadness for their having their professional ability and fitness for duty questioned. Mr. Jones stated that he had been misquoted in *The Tri-Town Observer*.

Mr. Fowler said that he feels horrendous for the suffering his mistake has caused the Marion EMS; the original information was incorrect and remains incorrect. Mrs. Manduca noted that the new *The Tri-Town Observer* doesn't understand the process and operating system under which the Marion EMS responds to calls, whereby qualified people get to the site in the least amount of time. Mr. Blanchette said, "When I was dead, Andrea came on a bicycle." (Mr. Blanchette was referring to an incident whereby he suffered a major attack and an EMT neighbor responded on her bicycle to his home.) Mr. Jones said that, beside being an EMT, he is a businessman in Town and has advertised in *The Tri-Town Observer*; when the disparaging articles began to appear, he contacted the paper to cancel his ad and the newspaper has not responded to him.

Dr. Old explained that he is an emergency room physician who lives in Marion, described some of the protocols used in small towns to provide service and offered to assist the Town in this effort. Mr. Cook said that there have been no instances where Marion has been investigated for their performance over the last two years when transporting patients to Tobey Hospital.

Mr. Jeffrey moved to go into executive session at 8:45 p.m. for the purpose of collective bargaining and to discuss litigation; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously, Messrs. Blanchette, Jeffrey and Henry voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,


Jonathan F. Henry, Clerk

Date approved: